

APPROVED: Meeting No. 27-96

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 20-96

April 29, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 29, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, and City Clerk Paula Jewell, who also serves as the Board of Elections Staff Liaison.

Re: Worksession with the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE).

The Mayor and Council met with Board of Elections Chairman Maury Ward and members Margaretta Tutson (Vice Chair), Linda Aksamit, David Celeste, and Howard Eskildson. The Board's report of findings on the 1995 election issues was discussed along with the Mayor and Council's recommended actions for follow-up.

1. Montgomery County's Election Notification Process

- (a) Find out what the County's time line requirement is for mailing out their notices of elections.
- (b) Staff should prepare a letter to either the County Executive or Supervisor of the County Board of Elections from the Board and Mayor and Council requesting their cooperation in sending out notices that will not interfere with the mailing of the City notices of elections. Request should also be made that the County's notices be clearly identified as being from Montgomery County.

2. City Election Polling Sites

- (a) Communicate ahead of time with the schools used as polling sites to inquire whether alternate parking arrangements can be made for teachers and school staff.
- (b) Check into the use of other polling sites (e.g., churches, armories)
- (c) See if the City can return to using Beall Elementary School as a polling site.
- (d) Development of the King Farm will mean an anticipated 3,200 additional residents; staff will have to think about establishing a new voting district and additional polling locations. Also, as the City's population base increases, the number of elected officials may need to increase.

3. City of Rockville Sample Ballot Mailer

- (a) Check into whether all election materials are to be treated as First Class Mail.
- (b) Mayor and Council consensus that the City should continue its use of the Sample Ballot Mailer; however, some changes can be made to improve it. (E.g., large and bold typeface of the word "OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT" on the front of mailer. In addition, the sample ballot can be redesigned so that each mailer clearly indicates tells each voter where their polling place is.

4. Electioneering Law

- (a) Mayor and Council consensus to leave as is the City law maintaining a 50-foot radius from the polling place. The law needs to be emphasized at future election judge training sessions, and judges should be instructed to patrol their assigned polling places to ensure that poll workers are in compliance with the law.

5. Increasing Candidate Interest and Voter Participation - Current law mandates that candidates must file petitions of candidacy 45 days prior to the City election. Forty-five days allows a limited amount of time for staff to verify petitions and prepare a ballot for mass production. Mayor and Council agreed the deadline could be moved back to 8-10

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weeks so that staff have ample time for planning and for candidates to have additional time to campaign.

- (a) Board to look at different options for candidate filing dates (e.g., 8-10 weeks).
- (b) Mayor and Council interested in having the Board review and make a recommendation on the issue of four year terms. City elections every four years would cut down on election costs, increase voter turnout, and give elected officials time to settle into their offices.
- (c) Board to research and make a recommendation on electronic and mail-in balloting.
- (d) Councilmember Dorsey interested in knowing how Rockville residents would feel about non-U.S. citizens voting in City elections.
- (e) Board should make themselves available to serve as guest speakers at citizen and homeowner association meetings to encourage voter participation.

6. Correction to Election District Descriptions

- (a) Legal staff should prepare an ordinance technically amending the error in Chapter 8, Section 8(3)(1) ("Map of Election Districts") of the City Code.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m., to reconvene in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on May 6, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.